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CAIRO, EGYPT, JAN 3 (REUTERS) - A COURT HERE RETRIED TODAY TO DELIBERATE ON ITS VERDICT AT THE END OF THE TRIAL OF AN EGYPTIAN NEWSPAPER CHARGED WITH PASSING DEFENSE SECRETS TO AN AMERICAN EMBASSY OFFICIAL.

THE VERDICT ON THE JOURNALIST, MUSTAPHA AMIN, IS UNLIKELY TO BE ANNOUNCED FOR SOME WEEKS.

AMIN, 32-YEAR-OLD FORMER EDITOR OF THE INFLUENTIAL AL-AHRAR, WAS ARRESTED HERE JULY 21 ALONG WITH A U.S. EMBASSY OFFICIAL BRUCE TAYLOR ODELL, TO WHOM HE WAS ACCUSED OF HANDING OVER SECRETS.

ODELL CLAIMED DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY AND RETURNED TO THE U.S.

AT HIS TRIAL WHICH BEGAN DEC. 28, AMIN PLEADED NOT GUILTY TO TWO CHARGES INVOLVING SECRET INFORMATION AND GUILTY TO TWO CHARGES ALLEGING CRIMINAL OFFENSES.

APART FROM A BRIEF OPENING SESSION, THE TRIAL TOOK PLACE BEHIND CLOSED DOORS. COURT OFFICIALS WOULD GIVE NO DETAILS OF TODAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

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